



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

May 9, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

**MOTION TO SUPPORT S. 144, "THE NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL ACT OF 2003",  
AND H.R. 119, "THE HARMFUL INVASIVE WEED CONTROL ACT"--ITEM NO. 25,  
AGENDA OF MAY 13, 2003**

Item No. 25 on the May 13, 2003 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Yaroslavsky that the Board of Supervisors support efforts currently underway in the House of Representatives for passage of S. 144, "The Noxious Weed Control Act of 2003", and H.R. 119, "The Harmful Invasive Weed Control Act", which would authorize \$100 million to be distributed to the states by the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to local weed management entities in carrying out control or eradication of harmful, invasive weeds, and could provide the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area (LACWMA) with a valuable source of funding to further its important mission; and instruct the County's Legislative Advocates, working with affected Departments and other interested parties to advocate the Board's support for S. 144 and H.R. 119.

S. 144 (Craig, R-ID) and H.R. 119 (Hefley, R-CO) have similar provisions. They would authorize the appropriation of \$100 million each year, from 2003 through 2007. The funds would be given to states for grants to "weed abatement entities" for projects to control and eradicate weeds, as well as for education, mapping and monitoring, as these activities would promote control and eradication. Unless the state and local agency can demonstrate that the project area is "underserved", or that the project meets a critical need that cannot otherwise be met, these bills require the local agency to provide 50 percent of the funding. The bills establish project selection criteria and reporting requirements. They also require that permission from private landowners be obtained before weeds on that land are eradicated. Finally, they prohibit the use of the funds for eradication of animals and pests, or to protect agricultural commodities.

According to the County's Agricultural Commissioner, LACWMA has been receiving approximately \$60,000 per year from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The funding has been used by the member agencies of LACWMA for projects, and as matching funds to obtain grants. The Agricultural Commissioner believes that LACWMA can meet the funding criteria in S. 144 and H.R. 119, and that it will be able to provide the 50 percent cost share required by these bills. **The Agricultural Commissioner recommends that the County support S. 144 and H.R. 119, and we concur.** Support is consistent with Board policy to seek funding for pest prevention and eradication efforts, as well as weed and wildlife management efforts.

S. 144 passed the Senate by voice vote on March 4, 2003 and is in the House of Representatives, where it was referred to the Committees on Resources and Agriculture. No hearings have been scheduled. A similar bill (S. 198) was introduced by Senator Craig in 2001. It was passed by the Senate on November 20, 2002, but was not considered by the House. H.R. 119 was referred to the Committees on Resources and Agriculture, and to the Department of Interior for comment. No hearings have been set. Representative Hefley introduced a similar bill (H.R. 1462) in 2001, but the bill was not reported out of committee. If either S. 144 or H.R. 119 is passed by both houses of Congress and signed by the President, the Congress will still have to include funding for the program in an annual appropriations bill.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:DRS:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Legislative Strategist